IN THE CLAIMS:

Please CANCEL claims 9-15 AMEND claim 1, 6 and 8 and ADD new claim 16 in accordance with the following:

1.   (currently amended) A system for ~~processing special characters used in a document that is dynamically compiled from records of a database for browsing at client systems,~~providing a client with database access service, the system comprising:

(a) a ~~special character image management unit~~database system comprising:

a database containing database records that uses special characters as part of text data thereof, the special characters being a class of characters that cannot be displayed with a standard font installed in the client,

special character definition means for creating a special character database file containing codes ~~of~~ the special characters used in the database, ~~the special characters being a class of characters that cannot be displayed with a standard font installed in the client system,~~

special character image generation means for producing graphical images corresponding to the codes of the special characters stored in the special character database file, with reference to a given character pattern dictionary containing character pattern data,

first image data storage means for storing the special character database file produced by said special character definition means and the special character images produced by said special character image generating means, and

uploading means for transmitting the special character database file and the special character image files~~;~~ over a network; and

(b)   a ~~document conversion unit~~server connected to the database system via the network, the server comprising:

a duplicated database containing the same database records as the database disposed in the database system, including the special characters used therein,

database search means for searching the duplicated database in response to a database query from the client and dynamically producing a document from the search result, the produced document including some of the special characters,

second image data storage means for storing the special character database file and special character images received from said ~~uploading means,~~database system over the network,

special character identification means for identifying a special character used in a

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~~given source~~the produced document by consulting the special character database file stored in said second image data storage means,

link generation means for producing a link to one of the special character image files that is relevant to the identified special character, and

compilation means for compiling an output document <u>for browsing at the client</u> by replacing the special character identified in the ~~source~~produced document with the link to the corresponding special character image file.

2.   (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein said special character definition means defines character codes and character sizes of the special characters to be converted.

3.   (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said special character image generation means produces one special character image file for each identified special character, based on the character pattern data read out of the given character pattern dictionary.

4.   (original) The system according to claim 2, wherein said special character image generation means produces as many special character image files as the number of different character sizes for each identified special character, based on the character pattern data read out of the given character pattern dictionary.

5.   (original) The system according to claim 4, wherein said special character image generation means assigns a file name to each produced special character image file, the file name comprising text fields that indicate the character code and the character size, whereby an appropriate special character image file can be uniquely and immediately identified by a given character code and character size.

6.   (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said ~~document conversion unit~~ server further comprises font size tracking means for finding character size attribute information in the given source document and maintains the extracted information locally.

7.   (original) The system according to claim 6, wherein said link generation means produces a link to one of the special character image files that meets the special character code

identified by said special character identification means and the character size attribute information maintained in said font size tracking means.

8.   (currently amended) The system according to claim 1, wherein said ~~document conversion unit~~ server further comprises code conversion means for converting a character code used in the given source document into another character code belonging to a required coding system, when the character code is identified as a non-special character by said special character identification means.

9-15.   (cancelled)

16.   (new) A method of providing a client with database access service, the method comprising:

providing a database system on a network to manage a database containing database records that uses special characters as part of text data thereof, the special characters being a class of characters that cannot be displayed with a standard font installed in the client;

providing a server on the network;

creating, in the database system, a special character database file containing codes of the special characters used in the database;

producing, in the database system, graphical images corresponding to the codes of the special characters stored in the special character database file, with reference to a given character pattern dictionary containing character pattern data;

transmitting the special character database file and the special character image files from the database system to the server over the network;

storing, in the server, the special character database file and special character images received from the database system over the network;

providing, in the server, a duplicated database containing the same database records as the database disposed in the database system, including the special characters used therein;

searching, in the server, the duplicated database in response to a database query from the client and dynamically producing a document from the search result, the produced document including some of the special characters;

identifying, in the server, a special character used in the produced document by consulting the special character database file;

producing, in the server, a link to one of the special character image files that is relevant

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to the identified special character; and

compiling, in the server, an output document for browsing at the client by replacing the special character identified in the produced document with the link to the corresponding special character image file.